
Public Notice

Applicant:

Mohawk Valley Economic
Development Growth Enterprises

Date:

Published: March 18, 2002

Expires: April 16, 2002

**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

In Reply Refer To:

Buffalo District **CELRB-CO-R RE:** 2001-00890(1) **Section:** NY 404

Application for Permit under Authority of
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Mohawk Valley Economic Development Growth Enterprises (EDGE), 153 Brooks Road, Rome, New York 13441, has applied for Department of the Army authorization to fill up to approximately 27 acres of jurisdictional wetland to construct a semiconductor facility on 280 acres of land owned by State University of New York Institute of Technology. The site is located north of the Mohawk-Adirondack rail line, south of Hazard Road, east of Morris Road and west of Edic Road, in the Town of Marcy, Oneida County, New York.

The Governor of New York State, George E. Pataki has implemented the SEMI-NY Program to promote economic growth by attracting the semiconductor industry to New York State. Under this initiative, thirteen sites throughout the state have been identified as pre-approved sites that have met strict location criteria required by the semiconductor industry.

Approximately 53 acres of jurisdictional wetland have been delineated on the 280 acre site. Mohawk Valley EDGE proposes to construct two semiconductor facilities (maximum build out). This proposal has been selected as the preferred alternative and involves the filling of 27 acres of wetland, 1,550 feet of ephemeral stream and 6,600 feet of an intermittent tributary system that flows off site and into the Erie Canal as per Sheet numbers 5 and 6. Minimum build out includes the construction of one semiconductor facility which will result in the filling of approximately 15 acres of wetland, 850 linear feet of ephemeral stream and 4,250 feet of the intermittent tributary system as per Sheet numbers 7 and 8.

The enclosed site plans are preliminary and may be modified when a specific tenant or buyer is identified. Wetland impacts will not exceed 27 acres and may be reduced depending on the final site configuration. To date, Mohawk Valley EDGE has not submitted a proposed mitigation plan to compensate for wetland and stream impacts.

Location and details of the above described work are shown on the

attached maps and drawings.

Questions pertaining to the work described in this notice should be directed to Bridget E. Brown, who can be contacted by calling (315) 255-8090, or by e-mail at: bridget.brown@usace.army.mil

The following authorization(s) may be required for this project:

Water Quality Certification (or waiver thereof) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

There are no registered historic properties or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that will be affected by this project.

In addition, available evidence indicates that the proposed work will not affect a species proposed or designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as threatened or endangered, nor will it affect the critical habitat of any such species.

This notice is promulgated in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 320-330. Any interested party desiring to comment on the work described herein may do so by submitting their comments, in writing, so that they are received no later than 4:30 pm on the expiration date of this notice.

Comments should be sent to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 7413 County House Road, Auburn, New York 13021, and should be marked to the attention of Bridget E. Brown, or by e-mail at: bridget.brown@usace.army.mil. A lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the work as proposed.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. All written comments will be made a part of the administrative record which is available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any individual may request a public hearing by submitting their written request, stating the specific reasons for holding a hearing, in the same manner and time period as other comments.

Public hearings for the purposes of the Corps permit program will be held when the District Commander determines he can obtain additional information, not available in written comments, that will aid him in the decision making process for this application. A Corps hearing is not a source of information for the general public, nor a forum for the resolution of issues or conflicting points of view (witnesses are not sworn and cross examination is prohibited). Hearings will not be held to obtain information on issues unrelated to the work requiring a permit, such as property ownership, neighbor disputes, or the behavior or actions of the public or applicant on upland property not regulated by the Department of the Army. Information obtained from a public hearing is given no greater weight than that obtained from written comments. Therefore, you should not fail to make timely written comments because a hearing might be held.

The decision to approve or deny this permit request will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Paul G. Leuchner
Chief, Regulatory Branch

NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.